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In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A vehicle control configuration comprising:
 - a hierarchical control system including an upper hierarchical level and a lower hierarchical level;
 - the upper hierarchical level communicates to the lower hierarchical level by sending downward signals;
 - the lower hierarchical level communicates to the upper hierarchical level by sending upward signals;
 - wherein the downward signals include at least one request for vehicle modification; and
 - wherein the upward signals include availabilities of the lower hierarchical level independent of the request for vehicle ~~modification~~, modification; and
 - wherein the lower hierarchical level is a suspension coordinator subsystem.
2. (original) The vehicle control configuration of claim 1, wherein:
 - the upward signals include availabilities of mode of operation of the lower hierarchical level.
3. (currently amended) ~~The vehicle control configuration of claim 2, wherein:~~ A vehicle control configuration comprising:
 - a hierarchical control system including an upper hierarchical level and a lower hierarchical level;
 - the upper hierarchical level communicates to the lower hierarchical level by sending downward signals;
 - the lower hierarchical level communicates to the upper hierarchical level by sending upward signals;
 - wherein the downward signals include at least one request for vehicle modification; and

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wherein the upward signals include availabilities of the lower hierarchical level independent of the request for vehicle modification;

wherein the upward signals include availabilities of mode of operation of the lower hierarchical level;

wherein the downward signals include a request for mode of operation of the lower hierarchical level; and

wherein the upward signals include a confirmation of the mode of operation.

4. (currently amended) ~~The vehicle control configuration of claim 1, wherein:~~ A vehicle control configuration comprising:

a hierarchical control system including an upper hierarchical level and a lower hierarchical level;

the upper hierarchical level communicates to the lower hierarchical level by sending downward signals;

the lower hierarchical level communicates to the upper hierarchical level by sending upward signals;

wherein the downward signals include at least one request for vehicle modification; and

wherein the upward signals include availabilities of the lower hierarchical level independent of the request for vehicle modification;

wherein the downward signals include a request for enablement; and

wherein the upward signals include a confirmation of enablement.

5. (currently amended) ~~The vehicle control configuration of claim 1, wherein:~~ A vehicle control configuration comprising:

a hierarchical control system including an upper hierarchical level and a lower hierarchical level;

the upper hierarchical level communicates to the lower hierarchical level by sending downward signals;

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the lower hierarchical level communicates to the upper hierarchical level by sending upward signals;

wherein the downward signals include at least one request for vehicle modification;
wherein the upward signals include availabilities of the lower hierarchical level
independent of the request for vehicle modification; and
wherein the downward signals include vehicle state measurements of the vehicle.

6. (currently amended) ~~The vehicle control configuration of claim 1, wherein:~~ A vehicle control configuration comprising:

a hierarchical control system including an upper hierarchical level and a lower hierarchical level;
the upper hierarchical level communicates to the lower hierarchical level by sending downward signals;
the lower hierarchical level communicates to the upper hierarchical level by sending upward signals;
wherein the downward signals include at least one request for vehicle modification; and
wherein the upward signals include availabilities of the lower hierarchical level
independent of the request for vehicle modification; and
wherein the upward signals include vehicle state measurements of actuators controlled
by the lower hierarchical level.

7. (currently amended) ~~The vehicle control configuration of claim 1, wherein:~~ A vehicle control configuration comprising:

a hierarchical control system including an upper hierarchical level and a lower hierarchical level;
the upper hierarchical level communicates to the lower hierarchical level by sending downward signals;
the lower hierarchical level communicates to the upper hierarchical level by sending upward signals;

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wherein the downward signals include at least one request for vehicle modification;
wherein the upward signals include availabilities of the lower hierarchical level
independent of the request for vehicle modification; and
wherein the upward signals include status of the lower hierarchical level independent of
the current vehicle behavior.

8. (currently amended) A vehicle control system comprising:
a vehicle motion control subsystem having a control input and a control output;
a suspension coordinator subsystem including a subsystem input and a subsystem output;
wherein the vehicle motion control subsystem outputs downward signals out of the control output to the subsystem input of the suspension coordinator subsystem;
wherein the suspension coordinator subsystem outputs upward signals out of the subsystem output to the control input of the vehicle motion control subsystem;
wherein the downward signals include at least one request for vehicle modification; and
wherein the upward signals include availabilities of the lower hierarchical level
suspension coordinator subsystem independent of the request for vehicle modification.
9. (original) The vehicle control system of claim 8, wherein:
the upward signals include availabilities of mode of operation of the suspension coordinator subsystem.
10. (original) The vehicle control system of claim 9, wherein:
the downward signals include a request for mode of operation of the suspension coordinator subsystem; and
the upward signals include a confirmation of the mode of operation.

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11. (original) The vehicle control system of claim 8, wherein:
the downward signals include a request for enablement; and
the upward signals include a confirmation of enablement.
12. (original) The vehicle control system of claim 8, wherein:
the downward signals include vehicle state measurements of the vehicle.
13. (original) The vehicle control system of claim 8, wherein:
the upward signals include vehicle state measurements of actuators of the suspension coordinator subsystem.
14. (original) The vehicle control system of claim 8, wherein:
the upward signals include status of actuators of the suspension coordinator subsystem independent of the current vehicle behavior.
15. (currently amended) A method of controlling a vehicle comprising:
providing the vehicle with a hierarchical control system including an upper hierarchical level and a lower hierarchical level;
communicating downward signals from the upper hierarchical level to the lower hierarchical level;
communicating upward signals from the lower hierarchical level to the upper hierarchical level;
wherein the downward signals include at least one request for vehicle modification; and
wherein the upward signals include availabilities of the lower hierarchical level independent of the request for vehicle modification; and
wherein the lower hierarchical level is a suspension coordinator subsystem.

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16. (original) The method of controlling a vehicle of claim 15, wherein:
the upward signals include availabilities of mode of operation of the lower hierarchical level.

17. (currently amended) ~~The method of controlling a vehicle of claim 16, wherein:~~ A method of controlling a vehicle comprising:
providing the vehicle with a hierarchical control system including an upper hierarchical level and a lower hierarchical level;
communicating downward signals from the upper hierarchical level to the lower hierarchical level;
communicating upward signals from the lower hierarchical level to the upper hierarchical level;
wherein the downward signals include at least one request for vehicle modification;
wherein the upward signals include availabilities of the lower hierarchical level independent of the request for vehicle modification;
wherein the upward signals include availabilities of mode of operation of the lower hierarchical level;
wherein the downward signals include a request for mode of operation of the lower hierarchical level; and
wherein the upward signals include a confirmation of the mode of operation.

18. (currently amended) ~~The method of controlling a vehicle of claim 15, wherein:~~ A method of controlling a vehicle comprising:
providing the vehicle with a hierarchical control system including an upper hierarchical level and a lower hierarchical level;
communicating downward signals from the upper hierarchical level to the lower hierarchical level;
communicating upward signals from the lower hierarchical level to the upper hierarchical level;

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wherein the downward signals include at least one request for vehicle modification;
wherein the upward signals include availabilities of the lower hierarchical level
independent of the request for vehicle modification;
wherein the downward signals include a request for enablement; and
wherein the upward signals include a confirmation of enablement.

19. (currently amended) ~~The method of controlling a vehicle of claim 15, wherein:~~ A
method of controlling a vehicle comprising:
providing the vehicle with a hierarchical control system including an upper hierarchical
level and a lower hierarchical level;
communicating downward signals from the upper hierarchical level to the lower
hierarchical level;
communicating upward signals from the lower hierarchical level to the upper
hierarchical level;
wherein the downward signals include at least one request for vehicle modification;
wherein the upward signals include availabilities of the lower hierarchical level
independent of the request for vehicle modification; and
wherein the upward signals include vehicle state measurements of actuators controlled
by the lower hierarchical level.

20. (currently amended) ~~The method of controlling a vehicle of claim 15, wherein:~~ A
method of controlling a vehicle comprising:
providing the vehicle with a hierarchical control system including an upper hierarchical
level and a lower hierarchical level;
communicating downward signals from the upper hierarchical level to the lower
hierarchical level;
communicating upward signals from the lower hierarchical level to the upper
hierarchical level;
wherein the downward signals include at least one request for vehicle modification;

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wherein the upward signals include availabilities of the lower hierarchical level independent of the request for vehicle modification; and
wherein the upward signals include status of the lower hierarchical level independent of the current vehicle behavior.